

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: ASAD VISIT TO LIBYA COINCIDES WITH LIBYAN

EDITORIAL ATTACK ON SADAT

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD, WITH PRIMIN AYYUBI AND FONMIN KHADDAM, ATTENDED CELEBRATIONS IN TOBRUK MARCH 27-29 AND ARE REPORTED TO HAVE HAD TWO SESSIONS OF TALKS WITH QADHAFI AND JALLUD. ASAD GAVE DISCREET SPEECH CALLING FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY. VIOLENT PERSONAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT SADAT (AND MRS. SADAT) APPEARED IN LIBYAN PRESS DAY OF ASAD'S ARRIVAL, AS IF TO SET THE SCENE. WITHOUT NAMING HIM, IT ACCUSES SADAT OF CORRUPTION, AND OPENLY STATES LIBYAN

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MONEY IS STILL GOING TO EGYPT, BUT "TO THOSE WHO DESERVE IT,

NOT TO THOSE WHO STEAL IT".

2. SYRIAN PRESIENT AL-ASAD CARRIED THROUGH HIS INTENTION TO VISIT LIBYA, ARRIVING IN TOBRUK ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 27 AND LEAVING MORNING OF MARCH 29. WITH HIM WERE PRIME MINISTER AYYUBI AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. TALKS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN SYRIAN DELEGATION ON ONE SIDE AND QADHAFI AND JALLUD ON THE OTHER MARCH 27 AND 28.

3. OCCASION FOR ASAD'S VISIT WAS CELEBRATIONS IN TOBRUK MARKING FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF EVACUATION OF BRITISH FORCES, A ROUTINE EVENT IN LIBYAN POLITICAL CALENDAR. ASAD HAD PLACE OF HONOR ON QADHAFI'S RIGHT, AND TELEVISION SHOWED THE TWO IN ANIMATED AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION DURING THE SPEECHES. LESSER LIGHTS PRESENT INCLUDED ABEL ALIER, VICE PRESIDENT OF SUDAN; MAJOR ABULGASIM MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, DEPUTY GENERAL OF SUDANESE SOCIALIST UNION; LT. COL. OTHMAN JELLI, MEMBER OF THE SOMALI SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL; AHMAD ABDALLAH, "PRIME MINISTER" OF FENCH COMORO ISLANDS, AND YUGOSLAV MINISTER OF DEFENSE, PRESUMABLY LJUBICIC. PRESS HAS ALSO SPOKEN OF "CHIEF OF STAFF OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES", BUT WE BELIEVE THIS INFORMATION IS GARBLED.

4. ALTHOUGH QADHAFI DID NOT SPEAK, LEAVING JALLUD TO MAKE SHORT AND UNREMARKABLE ORATION, ASAD DID. HE MANAGED TO SAY VERY LITTLE AT SOME LENGHT ON SUBJECT OF ARAB UNITY, SOLIDARITY, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF NASSER. EGYPT AND SADAT WERE NOT MENTIONED BY ASAD OR ANY OTHER ORATOR.

5. VIOLENT ANTI-SADAT EDITORIAL APPEARED INHIWYAN DAILY FAJR AL-JADID MARCH 27, DAY OF ASAD'S ARRIVAL, AS IF TO SET THE SCENE FOR HIS TALKS WITH QADHAFI. IT PRESUMABLY REFLECTS WHAT QADHAFI TOLD SYRIANS IN PRIVATE, AND WHAT HE WOULD HAVE SAID IN PUBLIC HAD HE DARED. ADDRESSED WITH HEAVY SARCASM TO "HIS EXCELLENCY THE PASHA, RULER OF THE GREAT SISTER STATE", IT DESCRIBES SADAT (WUZHOUT NAMING HIM) AS "THE LORD OF THE RABID DOGS", THE DOGS BEING THE EGYPTIAN PRESS, WHICH APPARENTLY HAS BEEN SAYING RUDE THINGS ABOUT QADHAFI. ONE PASSAGE: "WE SEND OUR WORDS TO LORD OF THE DOGS DIRECTLY, WHO IMAGINES THAT HE WILL BECOME THE CAESAR OF THE TWENTIETH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTURY AFTER HE HAS SOLD OUT THE CAUSE COMPLETELY. WE LWANT TO ASK THIS LORD WHERE MONEY WE DEPOSITED IN HIS BANKS HAS GONE, MONEY WE WANTED TO BE SOURCE OF PROSPERITY FOR SISTERLY PEOPLE WHOM WE LOVE AND RESPECT, AND WHOSE SACRIFICES WE APPRECIATE. CAN HIS EXCELLENCY THE PASHA FACE THESE PEOPLE AND TELL THEM WHERE THIS MONEY HAS GONE? NATURALLY HE CAN'T, BECAUSE CLEOPATRA (MRS. SADAT) HASN'T LEFT ANY OF IT, AND HAS SPENT IT ALL ON DRESSES AND JEWELS,

PARTIES FOR HER DAUGHTERS AND TRIPS TO EUROPE. THE PASHA COMES TO ACCUSE US OF CUTTING OFF SUPPORT MONEY. YES, WE DID THIS, BUT AFTER THE BATTLE HAD STOPPED, AND AFTER WE HAD ASSURED OURSELVES THAT MONEY WE WERE PAYING WAS GOING INTO PRIVATE POCKETS AND BANKS OF EUROPE. YES, WE DID CUT OFF SUPPORT FOR HIM AND HIS MEDIA, AND NOW WE HAVE BEGUN PAYING IT DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE. LET HIS EXCELLENCY THE PASHA KNOW THAT 40 MILLIONS ARE STILL BEING PAID IN FULL, BUT TO THOSE WHO DESERVE IT, NOT TO THOSE WHO STEAL IT". THERE IS GREAT DEAL MORE, INCLUDING CRITICISM OF SADAT'S TAILOR ("A SPECIAL EXPERT IN ELEGANCE") AND HIS KENNELS ("THE MAGAZINES OF EUROPE HAVE PUBLISHED THE COLORED PHOTO OF THE DOGS OF HIS PALACE EATING MEAT, WHICH HIS PEOPLE ONLY GET ONCE A WEEK..."), BUT PERHAPS ABOVE IS ENOUGH TO GIVE THE IDEA.

6. COMMENT: ASAD'S DISCREET SPEECH, WITH ITS CALL FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY, MAY INDICATE ONE OF HIS OBJECTS IN COMING HERE WAS TO COOL QADHAFI OFF. NEVERTHELESS APPARENT WARMING OF SYRIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS, FIRST APPARENT DURING RCC MEMBER MUHAYSHI'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS EARLIER THIS MONTH, WILL PRESUMABLY BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN CAIRO, AS WILL QADHAFI'S EDITORIAL BOAST THAT HE IS BANKROLLING SUBVERSIVES IN EGYPT. FOR QADHAFI, ASAD'S VISIT IS AN ENCOURAGEMENT, AND CHANCE TO REINSERT HIMSELF INTO THE ARAB COUNCILS FROM WHICH HE HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FOR SO LONG. STEIN

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